

QUOTES FROM

POPULAR PERSONALITIES

A Gift of Poems for Traditional Epiphany

January 6, 1995

By

Marcel B. Matley

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DEDICATION

In 1994 two of our friends died:

Maggie Brosnan and
Maggie Kersgard.

They were dear and valued friends.
Each showed great generosity of
spirit and a most loving heart.

This little collection of poems is
dedicated to their memory. Each
had a sense of humor and lively
spirit. They would have liked this
modest gift.

The Popular Philosopher

*There simply can't be any God,
The very thought of Him's not mod.
I surely do not have a soul,
My death will cause a cosmic hole.
What's past my nose, eyes, ears or taste
I judge an existential waste.*

The Popular Freudian

*It's such a pain to use my brain
For what my loins can quite explain.*

The Popular Sociologist

*It's not the fault of who's at fault,
The innocent could call a halt
To their unwitting horrid luck.
I pass to you the guilty's buck,
So you should shell out tax to pay
My programs where you have no say.*

The Popular Librarian

*Feel free to much malign my books.
Say not I've got librarian looks!*

The Popular Reincarnationist

*You'll be reborn again someday,
Or might prefer to stay away.
You could come back as man or beast
Or lowly bug to say the least.
Each time around we up our worth,
Though badly running down poor Earth.*

The Popular Politician

*I promise I shall do all things,
Especially junkets, bribes and flings.
You'll not regret I was your choice,
I've got good TV looks and voice.*

The Popular Poet

*My rhymes and rhythms work quite well,
But earn no cash - so what the hell!*

The Popular Lobbyist

*Dear Congress, put the first things first,
Or else the Commonwealth gets worse.
Your object is to help the poorest,
Teach the dumbest, heal the sorest.
My sole concern's my country's weal;
Feel free to take my secret deal.
So that prosperity shall shine,
I know no greater need than mine.*

The Popular Businessman

*The profit motive is the best,
I slave away at its behest.
The sex I sneak and power take
Are merely icing for my cake.*

The Popular Astrologer

*Your life's prewritten in the stars,
Or Venus, Jupiter and Mars.
You're safe to do as they ordain,
For brainless orbs aren't mad nor sane.
Astrologers might disagree,
But only I am right as me!*

The Popular Farmer

*Us rich ones get more help from Fed,
The poor ones pay more tax instead.*

The Popular Voter

*Election day should see them out,
Those bounders who our will so flout.
For better leaders how I wish!
Too bad that day I hunt and fish.*

The Popular Celebrity

*As upper crust society,
We prize our own propriety.
Upon our skill and worth we're stuck,
Though honestly they're only luck.*

The Popular Clergyman

*You owe me what I left for you.
And if I leave, you owe it too.*

The Popular Unionist

*I get full pay for working - but
For also sitting on my butt.*

The Popular Anti-unionist

*It's awful how they have such pay,
Big benefits, political say!
The laws their power should curtail
And me as their replacement hail.*

The Popular Wife

*It's you I honor and adore,
It's you I love and cherish more
Than all the world in part or whole,
Because I have you in control.*

The Popular Husband

*I understand your love for me,
I love me too - devotedly.*

The Popular Parent

*The best of moms and dads are we,
And all of us could surely be
The happiest of families,
If you'd but match our fantasies!*

The (un)Popular Teenage Child

*My deeds are just your wish come true,
The deeds you wished the chance to do.*

The Popular Right-Wing Militarist

*The most important job is mine;
My home, the country's greatest shrine.
I hold me in most high regard,
In praise of me I act the bard.
I tolerate no contradictions;
I'm Delphi for the common fictions.
If my belief's a wee bit wrong,
It compensates by being strong!*

The Popular Consumer

*All prices soar up to the sky,
For workers' wages are too high.*

The Popular Employer

*I quite agree with what you say,
And so I'll gladly cut your pay.*

The Popular Consumer Reconsiders

*It's really profits that inflate
And all recessions aggravate.*

The Popular Government Leader

*How businesses the money make!
A higher tax will cut their take.
We'll cure your ills by spending more;
Just see how public debts will soar.*

The Popular Consumer Again Reconsiders

*On second thought, let's not do that,
New tax will make the price grow fat.
Your remedies are worse by far
Than present economics are.*

The Popular Physician

*Upon your throat there's lovely lumps,
I wonder if you've got the mumps.
You've runny nose and shaky hand,
A fever high, complexion bland.
With stomach ache and purple blood
It's likely viral or other crud.
Of course, it could be cancer cells,
A thousand bucks in tests will tell.
In any case, just take red pills,
And blue ones for the red pills' ills,
The white and green to fight the blue
And pink to counteract those two.
Above all else, just take this bill -
And tonic if that gives new ill.
Please pay before you're long deceased,
Or else my fees must be increased.*

The Popular Patient

*You've diagnosed extremity,
Now give me one last remedy.
To all your cures apply surcease,
And let me die in quiet and peace!*

The Popular Analyst

*Your childhood must have been a fright.
You disagree? That proves me right!
Apparently you're very ill,
Enough to charge my highest bill.
Come back each week for many years.
You won't be cured, but oh the tears!*

The Popular Attorney

*I'll work to get your court decree.
In case we fail, first pay my fee.*

The Popular Journalist

*You mustn't censor what I write,
For censorship is my sole right.
My only interest is in fact;
Your interest, in the pulp I hack.*

The Popular Artist

*My work may look like sloppy dubbing,
Myself look grubby, needing scrubbing.
I in appearance might seem lazy
And in action slightly crazy.
Not withstanding all of that,
My cheapest work's a hundred flat.
I am an artist, I declare;
From normal rules you must me spare.*

(The Last Poem)

NOTES

These poems were written at a time when I did not have a television. They were started as a way to entertain myself. I probably should have kept up such a wholesome alternative to the idiot box. But the flesh is weak, and the mind often weaker.

To be as fair as possible, more than one group to which I belong is included. Which ones they might be and how close to home the poems come in my own case, I leave you to wonder. My lips are sealed for the protection of the fragility of my ego. But then I shall love my neighbor as myself and not divulge who else might have inspired a poem.

The concept was to state in a humorous way what I thought was the popular stereotype of various groups. No meanness of spirit was ever intended, and I trust that the reader shares that attitude. However, these notes are a publisher's privilege of editorializing.

THE POPULAR PHILOSOPHER.

It amazes me how so many scientists and people in general think that "Modern" science has proven there is no God. They say it ends up showing only physical reality exists. But that is only because it starts off insisting everyone ignore everything but physical reality. If we all agreed we would have a science of color but must ignore anything beyond the visible spectrum, then all our studies of color would have no evidence of infra-red or ultra-violet. Could we then conclude that they do not exist since none of our "colorology" reports would even mention them?

THE POPULAR FREUDIAN.

In his book on self-hypnosis, Leslie LeCron says that at the time of Freud hypnotism was well advanced in curing the psychologically ill. As Freud was inept at hypnosis, he invented a method that was ineffective but tailored to his neurotic inability to deal directly with people. It is said that Freud learned of the unconscious in a class he took from the great French psychologist, Dr. Pierre Janet. Freud went home, rewrote it with his name as discoverer, and so pulled off the intellectual fraud of the century.

THE POPULAR REINCARNATIONIST.

A friend who believes in reincarnation said I should have titled this the "Transmigrationist." Probably. As to my own beliefs, as a matter of theology and philosophy I believe we each get one ride on the merry-go-round. As a matter of mathematics, there simply were never enough human beings to accommodate all the people claiming all those previous incarnations.

THE POPULAR POLITICIAN.

I really do not have much truck with those who bad-mouth all politicians. The only politicians who deserve such are the ones who have fostered the infectious poison of animosity to those who serve our political attitudes at our own consent. I believe President Nixon and his adherents deserve the most blame for the negative attitude prevalent in this country. They corrupted the process more than any ever had before and then lied to us by saying all politicians did the same but just never got caught. They were also the ones who showed that vicious campaigning succeeded whereby one told whatever evil story of one's opponent one could think of. Unfortunately it still works with us voters. Nixon and many of his ilk have been elected with those tactics. The fact that TV images have become far more important to voters than reality has unhappily made this poem a sad and unwitting prophesy.

THE POPULAR LOBBYIST.

This refers to a continuing problem in our political life. But we the voters continually show disinterest in supporting reform, and so we have in effect voted for any abuse which exists. The political process in this country is truly the expression of either our will or our unwillingness.

THE POPULAR ASTROLOGER.

Personally I have no belief in astrology and its kindred disciplines. Astrologers always want to know my birth date. I say to them to tell me the date, since, as they know the personality from the date, they should be able to work back from knowing me to my birth date. "No, no. When were you born?" "On such and such day." "Oh, I knew you'd be a ____! That's just exactly the way you are." As Charlie Brown would say: "Sigh!"

THE POPULAR UNIONIST AND ANTI-UNIONIST.

When one group tells you another has too much power, what they really mean is that they envy that power for themselves. A Union is just that, a way to work together. I am amused by those who decry unions, decriers like the unions of business, financial and corporate interests who destroy worker unions. Also, the U.S. is what it is because some 18th Century activist radicals wanted to institute "a more perfect Union." And is not our destiny "Union with God" and, through God, with each other?

THE POPULAR WIFE AND HUSBAND.

When I read these at a poetry reading, the predominantly female audience was not the least amused after the first one. After the second one they all nodded knowingly: "Typical male!"

THE POPULAR RIGHT-WING MILITARIST.

Since the universe forms a loop, extremists are not really facing each other across a chasm, they are back to back. They occupy the same narrow piece of mentality. We can be most grateful that they are too silly to realize it and so join their vicious energies against the rest of us.

THE POPULAR CONSUMER AND COMPANY.

Actually the sequence could go on forever in an unending circle. Only if we step back from a situation can we then see there are not two or even many sides to a dispute. There is rather a supervening process, the Divine Plan, which we miss when our human ego drives us on.

THE POPULAR PHYSICIAN.

I went to a Chinese herbalist. Within a week the condition was cured. Later I went to an herbalist who had allegedly learned from the Chinese. The condition returned with a vengeance. Back to the offices of the first herbalist and no recurrence since. Does Chinese herbal medicine work? Like anything else in life, it depends on whether the herbalist knows from what or not.

THE POPULAR ATTORNEY.

I have been a forensic expert for ten years and have worked for many attorneys. Except for one, their high sense of ethics has impressed me.